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NOTE VERBALE DATED 24 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to enclose the text of the statement made on 22 January 1991 by the military spokesman for Iraq.

The Permanent Mission of Iraq requests the Secretariat to have the text of this letter and of its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Statement made by the military spokesman for Iraq on 22 January 1991

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate,

On Tuesday, 22 January 1991, at 1.41 p.m., United States aircraft bombed two Iraqi tankers, causing a vast oil slick in the waters of the Arabian Gulf which is bound to cause serious harm to the region's living marine resources and environment.

This is not the first time the United States has damaged the environment, and exposed man and fauna to serious danger, by undertaking nuclear tests and dumping nuclear wastes and other toxic chemicals.

Today, the United States is committing another offence by polluting the waters of the Arabian Gulf. Accordingly, Iraq appeals to world public opinion and to the organizations and individuals concerned, particularly to the "Greens", to denounce this criminal act and to do everything within their power to put an end to such acts.

For its part, Iraq, which respects the right to life of all human beings and which God has endowed with natural wealth, is prepared to co-operate with any party with a view to putting an end to these crimes.